

Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0886
SECDEF WASHDC
AMEMBASSY OSLO
INFO CINCLANT NORFOLK VA
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USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 04023

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MPOL, NATO, NO
SUBJECT: NATO FORCE GOALS

REF: (A) USNATO 2833 (DTG 171939Z MAR 78)
(B) USNATO 2075 (DTG 281530Z FEB 78)
(C) STATE 65766 (DTG 150051Z MAR 78)
(D) OSLO 1829 (DTG 131437Z APR 78)

1. THE DEFENSE REVIEW COMMITTEE (DRC) WILL MEET APRIL 27 FOR A HOPEFULLY FINAL REVIEW OF THE INDIVIDUAL COUNTRY CHAPTERS ON 1979-1984 DRAFT FORCE GOALS, PRIOR TO THESE BEING FORWARDED TO PERMREPS. WITH THE EXCEPTION OF NORWAY, WE EXPECT THAT THIS EXERCISE WILL BE LARGELY PRO FORMA.

2. IN ITS INITIAL CONSIDERATION OF NORWEGIAN FORCE GOALS (REF A), THE DRC, OVER US AND NORWEGIAN OBJECTIONS, TENTATIVELY SUPPORTED A CHALLENGE OF ABOUT NKR 3,100 MILLION ABOVE COUNTRY PLANS, REQUIRING TOTAL ANNUAL REAL INCREASES IN NORWAY'S DEFENSE SPENDING OF NEARLY 5 PERCENT.
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THE NORWEGIAN TEAM, IN TURN, REFUSED TO ACCEPT A CHALLENGE ABOVE A 4 PERCENT TOTAL ANNUAL INCREASE LEVEL.

3. WE UNDERSTAND THAT OSLO IS NOW PREPARED TO ACQUIESCE IN A 4.5 PERCENT OVERALL CHALLENGE, AND PER REFS B AND C PLAN TO SUPPORT NORWAY IN OPPOSING COMMITTEE ATTEMPTS TO IMPOSE A HIGHER LEVEL OF CHALLENGE.

4. MORE IMPORTANTLY, THE NORWEGIAN REPRESENTATIVE HEDGED ON OSLO'S DEFENSE SPENDING PLANS, INDICATING THAT DEFENSE BUDGETS FOR 1979-1981 MIGHT NOT EXCEED 2 PERCENT INCREASES IN CONTRAST TO THE 3 PERCENT PREVIOUSLY FORESEEN. WE PLAN TO PRESS THE NORWEGIANS ON THIS MATTER AT THE APRIL 27 MEETING, EMPHASIZING THE IMPORTANCE TO ALLIED SOLIDARITY OF NORWAY'S HOLDING TO THE 3 PERCENT GOAL. IN THIS REGARD, WE HAVE READ WITH INTEREST EMBASSY OSLO'S EXCELLENT REVIEW OF THE DEFENSE COMMISSION REPORT (REF D), AND WOULD APPRECIATE ANY FURTHER INFORMATION THAT THE EMBASSY MIGHT PROVIDE BEFORE APRIL 27 ON NORWAY'S FORWARD FINANCIAL PLANS. GLITMAN

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